

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 00397 01 OF 02 050053Z

67

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-05

DEAE-00 SNM-02 IO-11 CU-02 /125 W

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R 041000Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 947

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI FOR POLAD

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

DEA BANGKOK BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST BY POUCH

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MANDALAY BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI BY POUCH

USLO PEKING BY POUCH

AMCONSUL UDORN BY POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 0397

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BM

SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA 5

1. VIP VISITS (LOU)

SRI LANKA PM MRS. BANDARANAIKE CONCLUDED FIVE DAY VISIT TO BURMA

FEB 2 WHICH INCLUDED TRIPS TO MANDALAY, PAGAN AND TAUNGGYI.

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PAGE 02 RANGOO 00397 01 OF 02 050053Z

VISIT APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO PROMOTE PRESIDENTIAL ATTENDANCE AT

AUGUST NAC CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO AS WELL AS GUB SUPPORT FOR INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL. FINAL JOINT COMMUNIQUE REFLECTED THESE INTERESTS ALTHOUGH BURMESE ARE VAGUE ABOUT PRESENCE AT NAC. (RANGOON 379). HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FRIGYEF PUJA MADE BRIEF OVERNIGHT STOP IN RANGOON JAN 31-FEB 1 ENROUTE FROM LAOS. IN ABSENCE OF FONMIN WHO WAS TOURING COUNTRY WITH MRS. BANDARANAIKE, DEPUTY FONMIN HOSTED DINNER EVENING OF JAN 31. ACCORDING TO ONE EAST EUROPEAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL, VISIT WAS ESSENTIALLY A COURTESY CALL WITH LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE DISCUSSED.

2. NE WIN VISITS THREE MILITARY COMMANDS (LOU)

PRESIDENT NE WIN RETURNED TO RANGOON FEB 3 FOLLOWING VISITS TO EASTERN, NORTHWEST AND WESTERN BURMA ARMY REGIONAL COMMANDS. MAIN PURPOSE OF TRIP APPEARED TO BE TO VISIT MILITARY UNITS IN EASTERN COMMAND WHERE BURMA ARMY HAS RECENTLY BEEN ENGAGED AGAINST BCP ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT ALSO MET WITH SRI LANKA PRIMIN IN PAGAN. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE YE GAUNG ACCOMPANIED NE WIN WHICH IS UNUSUAL, AND MAY POSSIBLY BE RELATED TO GUB INTEREST IN REPLACING OPIUM PRODUCTION WITH OTHER CROPS.

3. TRIAL OF DAW HTA MYINT (LOU)

BAIL APPLICATION BY DAW HTA MYINT, SISTER OF PRESIDENT NE WIN'S WIFE, DAW NYI NYI MYINT, IN CONNECTION WITH HER TRIAL ON BLACK MARKETING CHARGES WAS DENIED JAN 27. AS FURTHER ILLUSTRATION OF DIFFICULTIES IN WHICH DAW NYI NYI MYINT AND HER KIN FIND THEMSELVES, A BROTHER, KO KYAW OO, HAS ALSO BEEN INCLUDED IN THE CHARGES. RUMOR ALSO HAS IT THAT DR. MAUNG MAUNG, EMINENT LAWYER AND STATE COUNCIL MEMBER, HAS BEEN ASKED BY PRESIDENT NE WIN TO TAKE LEGAL STEPS NECESSARY TO SECURE HIS DIVORCE FROM HIS WIFE.

4. GENERAL SAN YU VISITS TOUNGOO AND PEGU (LOU)

BSPP SECRETARY-GENERAL, GENERAL SAN YU VISITED TOUNGOO AND PEGU JAN 31 TO FEB 1. TRIP IS ONE OF RECENT SERIES, ALL OF WHICH MARKED BY HORTATORY SPEECHES GIVEN NATIONAL COVERAGE. THEMES INCLUDE ANTI-CORRUPTION, SUPPORT OF "FOUR DENIAL" SCHEME (A MAJOR "FOUR DENIAL" CAMPAIGN SEEMS TO BE UNDER WAY AGAINST KAREN INSURGENTS), AND PARTY MATTERS, INCLUDING PROMOTION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 RANGOO 00397 01 OF 02 050053Z

BSPP AND NEED FOR BETTER PARTY ORGANIZATION AT ALL LEVELS.

5. ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE "EXPEDITED" IN RANGOON (LOU)

RANGOON MILITARY ADMINISTRATION JAN 23 ISSUED ORDER NO. 12 UNDER WHICH RANGOON DIVISION CIVILIAN COURT SYSTEM, TO COINCIDE WITH SPECIAL MILITARY COURT SYSTEM, HAS BEEN "STREAMLINED". UNDER NEW RULES, DEFENDENTS IN CRIMINAL CASES ARE NO LONGER PER-

MITTED TO BE REPRESENTED BY LEGAL COUNSEL, AND APPEALS OF LOWER COURT DECISIONS AFTER REACHING RANGOON DIVISION LEVEL MAY ONLY BE APPEALED TO COMMANDER, RANGOON COMMAND. THUS, IN CRIMINAL CASES, THERE NO LONGER APPEARS TO BE ANY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MILITARY AND CIVILIAN COURT SYSTEMS, AND DEFENDENT APPARENTLY HAS LITTLE RECOURSE BUT TO ACCEPT WHATEVER PUNISHMENT STATE ELECTS TO HAND OUT ON BASIS OF ITS INVESTIGATION.

6. MOGOK CRACKDOWN (LOU)

GUB HAS INSTITUTED SEVER CRACKDOWN AT MOGOK, BURMA'S GEMSTONE MINING CENTER. IN SERIES OF ACTIONS BEGINNING IN EARLY DECEMBER, MOGOK TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS AND LOCAL CITIZENS OF PROGRESSIVELY HIGHER RANKS WERE ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF CORRUPTION OR INVOLVEMENT IN LEGAL GEM MINING. PROCESS CULMINATED JANUARY 21 WHEN ALL NEWSPAPERS CARRIED PROMINENT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MOGOK PEOPLE'S COUNCIL, WHO WAS NAMED, AND TWO OTHER OFFICIALS HAD BEEN "TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED" PENDING INVESTIGATION; SUBSEQUENTLY THEY WERE CHARGE WITH ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES. ORDER THEN ISSUED PROHIBITING ANYONE IN MOGOK TOWNSHIP FROM MINING, CUTTING, TRADING, TRANSPORTING, OR POSSESSING GEMS. BURMA ARMY MOVED INTO MOGOK IN EARLY DECEMBER TO MAINTAIN ORDER AND 92 PRISONERS IN MOGOK JAIL HAVE BEEN MOVED TO MANDALAY TO MAKE ROOM FOR 300 ILLICIT GEM MINERS AWAITING TRIAL.

7. CHINESE, BURMA STYLE (LOU)

AN EXPOSE WHICH RECENTLY APPEARED IN LOCAL PRESS ON BCP EXCESSES (IMPRESSING 10 YEAR OLD CHILDREN, STEALING CATTLE, FORCED MARRIAGE TO "FOREIGNERS", USING STATUES OF BUDDAH FOR TARGET PRACTICE, ETC.) WAS ILLUSTRATED WITH CARTOONS CLEARLY SHOWING WESTERNERS COMMITTING THESE OFFENSES. THIS WAS APPARENTLY BECAUSE BURMA'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 RANGOO 00397 01 OF 02 050053Z

DELICATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRC DOES NOT PERMIT LAMPOONING OF CHINESE IN SUCH CARTOONS; THE BURMESE NEWSPAPER READER, HOWEVER, CERTAINLY GOT THE MESSAGE.

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 00397 02 OF 02 050205Z

67

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R 041000Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 RANGOON 0397

8. TROUBLE AMONG PPP INSURGENTS (LOU)

PRESS ANNOUNCED FEB 3 THAT YAN LIN NAING, SON OF BO YAN NAING, LEADER OF THE PRO-U NU PPP (PEOPLE'S PATRIOTIC PARTY) INSURGENTS, WAS SHOT AND KILLED IN AN INSURGENT CAMP JAN 28. STORY DESIGNED TO FOSTER DIVISION AMONG INSURGENT FACTIONS BY CASTING SUSPICION FOR SHOOTING ON INSURGENT LEADER YANGON BA SWE, BY GOSSIPING ABOUT LOOSE LIVING BY BO YAN NAING AND BY PROVIDING OTHER JUICY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 RANGOO 00397 02 OF 02 050205Z

MORSELS, SUCH AS ALLEGED POISONING OF YET ANOTHER INSURGENT LEADER BY SON OF BO LET YA, ALSO PROMINENT IN PPP CIRCLES.

9. UNSWING RANGOON (LOU)

RANGOON DIVISION PEOPLE'S COUNCIL IN LATE JANUARY ISSUED ORDER

BANNING HOLDING OF "MISFEATURED" WESTERN DANCES AND PLAYING OF MUSIC RUNNING "COUNTER TO NATIONAL CULTURE" IN HOTELS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES; BAN SUBSEQUENTLY IMPOSED IN MANDALAY. NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL HAILED ORDER AS PREVENTING "FURTHER POLLUTION BY DECADENCE" AND ADDED THAT ORDER DOES NOT INTERFERE "WITH THE PRIVACY THAT NATIONALS OF OTHER COUNTRIES RESIDENT HERE ARE ENTITLED TO IN THEIR OWN HOMES". LOCAL WAGS CLAIM NEWEST DANCE IN TOWN CALLED THE "NE WIN STOMP", CONSISTING ENTIRELY OF BACKWARD STEPS.

10. NARCOTICS: LO HSING-HAN CASE (UNCLAS)

THE TRIAL OF LO GOES ON. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER SIX MONTHS, LOCAL PAPERS CARRIED ACCOUNTS OF HEARINGS IN THE LO CASE. BOTH THE DEFENSE AND PROSECUTION PRESENTED PLEAS ON CHARGES LEVIED AGAINST LO IN THE PAST. THE ARTICLE SUMMARIZED THE HISTORY OF THE CASE AND CHARGES, WHICH THE DEFENSE IS ATTEMPTING TO DOWNPLAY, BUT NO DECISION HAS BEEN REACHED.

11. NARCOTICS: MORE POPPY DESTROYED (UNCLAS)

THE PROGRAM TO DESTROY POPPY PLANTS ON THE EVE OF THE HARVEST CONTINUED DURING THE PAST WEEK. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PAPERS, OVER 300 ACRES OF POPPY WAS DESTROYED IN THE TAUNGGYI AREA BY POLICE AND ARMY. COMMENT: OUR COUNT HAS IT AT OVER 800 ACRES OF POPPY DESTROYED IN THE SHAN STATE. THIS IS EXCLUSIVE OF EARLIER OPERATIONS IN THE CHIN HILLS, KAYAH AND KACHIN STATES.

12. BILATERAL ASSISTANCE FOR BURMA (UNCLAS)

U.K. RECENTLY PROVIDED GRANT OF POUNDS 1.914 MILLION TO GUB FOR PURCHASE OF TRUCKS AND SPARE PARTS BY MYANMA OIL CORPORATION. PURCHASE CONTRACTS ARE TO BE CONCLUDED BEFORE THE END OF 1976, AND PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE HANDLED BY CROWN AGENTS FOR OVERSEAS GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS. THIS IS SECOND U.K. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 RANGOO 00397 02 OF 02 050205Z

GRANT TO BURMA WITHIN SIX MONTHS. LAST JULY HMG MADE GRANT OF POUNDS 2 MILLION FOR PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT AND SPARES BY VARIOUS GUB CORPORATIONS. AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AGENCY PLANS TO SEND MISSION TO RANGOON IN MARCH TO DISCUSS AUSTRALIA'S ASSISTANCE TO BURMA AND PERHAPS FORMULATE PROGRAM OF SPECIFIC PROJECTS FOR NEXT THREE YEARS. GUB ASKING AUSTRALIAN ASSISTANCE FOR PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY, IRRIGATION PROJECTS AND RURAL VILLAGE WATER SUPPLY INCLUDING DRILLING EQUIPMENT TO TAP SUBTERRANEAN WATER DEPOSITS.

13. BURMA'S TOURIST TRADE (UNCLAS)

ACCORDING TO RECENT PRESS ARTICLE, BURMA EARNED ABOUT \$3.2 MILLION

FROM OVER 17,000 TOURISTS IN 1975. HOWEVER, ARTICLE CLAIMS PER CAPITA EARNINGS FROM TOURISTS ARE ONLY ABOUT HALF OF WHAT THEY ARE IN OTHER COUNTRIES DUE TO SHORT (7-DAY) STAY ALLOWED VISITORS, POOR ACCOMODATIONS, LACK OF SOUVENIER ITEMS FOR SALE, AND LIMITED TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES TO PLACES OF INTEREST SUCH AS PAGAN. ARTICLE ALSO ATTRIBUTES LOW EARNINGS TO ILLEGAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS AND BLACKMARKETING OF CONSUMER ITEMS SUCH AS WHISKEY AND CIGARETTES BY TOURISTS AND WARNS THAT GUB CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES HAVE BECOME MORE VIGILANT IN CHECKING TOURISTS AT AIRPORT. COMMENT (LOU): ARTICLE TREADS NEUTRAL TIGHTROPE BETWEEN TWO FACTIONS IN GUB, I.E., THOSE THAT WANT TO LIBERALIZE TOURIST REGULATIONS AND PROMOTE MORE TOURISM AND THOSE THAT WISH TO BAN FOREIGN TOURISTS ALTOGETHER. NEITHER FACTION IS LIKELY TO WIN BOUT, BUT AS MORE TOURIST FACILITIES WOULD BE EXPENSIVE AND AS GUB PRESENTLY GOING THROUGH ANOTHER PERIOD OF MILD XENOPHOBIA, IT IS LIKELY THAT ATTEMPTS TO WRING MORE INCOME OUT OF TOURIST TRADE WILL COME THROUGH STRICTER ENFORCEMENT OF CURRENCY AND SMUGGLING REGULATIONS VIS A VIS FOREIGN VISITORS. SINCE AMERICANS MAKE UP LARGE SHARE OF THESE VISITORS, WE ANTICIPATE INCREASED CONSULAR PROBLEMS IN COMING YEAR. OSBORN

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